

KNOTTINGLEY
URBAN DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

REPORT

for the year 1903.

— TO THE —

Nottingham Urban District Council,

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1903.

I have to record a higher death rate than that recorded for 1902, due to an increase in the number of deaths from zymotic diseases and from accidents.

The deaths registered in the district number 114 (59 males and 55 females), which number gives an average of 19·5 per 1,000 living. In addition, 13 deaths of former residents occurred in Public Institutions outside the district (10 males and 3 females), making a corrected total of 127 deaths, and a death rate of 20·7 per 1,000 living. Of the deaths occurring outside the district, 3 were at the Workhouse Infirmary, 1 at the Asylum, 1 at Leeds Infirmary, 3 at the Conjoint Infectious Hospital, Baghill, and 2 at the Small Pox Hospital, Sherburn. The deaths under 1 year of age number 27, giving an infantile death rate of 127·9 per 1,000 births, which is rather lower than that of last year. The deaths due to accident were 2 from burns, 2 drowned, 1 from a crush, and 1 thrown out of a trap. The deaths from burns were those of two children, each left alone in a room and getting into contact with the fire. In neither case was the household provided with a fire-guard. If the public would only make more general use of fire-guards a good many children's lives would be saved in a year throughout the country.

The deaths due to zymotic causes numbered 24 as against 8 in 1902. This gives a death rate of 4·0 per 1,000, which I am sorry to say is more than twice the average rate. Thirteen of these deaths were due to measles, 4 to scarlet fever, 2 to smallpox, 1 to croup, and 4 to diarrhoea.

The total births registered numbered 211 (111 males and 100 females). This gives a birth rate of 35·9 per 1,000 inhabitants. The average birth rate for England and Wales is 28·4 per 1,000.

There were 71 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, viz. :—

14 of Smallpox ;
2 of Erysipelas ;
52 Scarlet Fever ;
3 Enteric Fever.

Smallpox. I have already specially reported on the outbreak of Smallpox during 1903. Altogether 14 cases occurred, two of which proved fatal. All were removed to the Smallpox Hospital at Sherburn for treatment. The first case was an inmate of Walker's lodging-house, and was discovered on March 25th. On inquiry it was found that the man had been living at a lodging-house at Pontefract where a case of Smallpox had occurred. He had refused to be re-vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator there, and had then left and come to Knottingley, where he developed the disease, and from him as the original source, all the other cases which occurred here could be traced. As soon as the case was notified, I visited the lodging-house and offered to re-vaccinate all the other lodgers and the proprietor's family. Walker's family availed themselves of the offer, with the result that they escaped infection ; but not so the lodgers. I only succeeded in vaccinating one man—a hawker who had never been vaccinated, and his children. These people never took the disease, though the man slept in the next bed to the man who was affected. The man who slept in the bed on the other side of the case of Smallpox refused to be re-vaccinated, and a fortnight later he developed Smallpox. His case was notified on April 14th. On May 2nd, three more cases were discovered. One of these cases, Jonathan Walker, who lived close to Walker's lodging-house, was afterwards prosecuted for exposing himself while suffering from the disease, as he visited a public-house and was the sole means of infecting the next batch of cases. The next case occurred on the 14th of May, three on the 15th, one on the 19th, one on the 20th, one on the 21st, and one on the 26th. On June the 7th, a man who was just recovering from an attack came back to Walker's lodging-house. He had been an inmate there when Smallpox first broke out, but in the meantime had left. I may say this outbreak cost the town about £170. When the first case occurred I wanted to place the lodging-house in quarantine, and

failing that, to get the Council to agree to compensate those lodgers who would undergo re-vaccination in case they should not be able to follow their employment. Neither of these suggestions would the Council consider ; but it must be very patent to everybody now that any expense incurred in carrying out these suggestions would have been very much less than the amount the outbreak has cost.

From a report sent to me by the Medical Officer at Sherburn Hospital, I have been able to ascertain the severity of the disease in the different patients considered with regard to vaccination. The mild cases occurred in those who had good primary vaccination marks. None of the cases had undergone re-vaccination. The severe cases occurred in those who had only slight signs of primary vaccination ; and one man who had never been vaccinated at all only just pulled through the attack. Also, those of the cases who were of older age had the disease more severely than the younger patients, shewing that vaccination tends to lose its protective power as years go by.

In all the cases that occurred after the first two in the lodging-house, I was able to persuade the other inmates and those who had been in contact to be re-vaccinated, with the result that all escaped Smallpox, with the exception of one girl, who had been exposed to infection too long for vaccination to be of use in altogether stopping the disease—though it may have modified the attack, as she only had Smallpox in a mild form.

Of course when the epidemic got a start there was a big rush of the inhabitants for re-vaccination, and, though many of them had been brought in contact with the cases there was no single instance of a case occurring among those who availed themselves of re-vaccination. Under the influence of the alarm which the outbreak caused, a few unbelievers in vaccination made haste to avail themselves of the protection which vaccination undoubtedly gives. I personally hope to see the day when not only will vaccination be made compulsory again, but also *re*-vaccination—say, when children are finishing their school career and before going out to work.

Scarlet Fever. Fifty-two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, of which 4 ended fatally. Thirty-nine of these cases were treated at the Conjoint Hospital. In the 1st quarter of the year there were 3 cases in two families.

In the 2nd quarter, 21 cases in fifteen families.
 In the 3rd ,, 4 cases in four families.
 In the 4th ,, 24 cases in twelve families.

The milk supply, water supply, and drainage of the houses affected were found to be good. Most of the cases developed through contact with other cases. As a whole, the character of the disease was of a mild type.

Three deaths occurred out of five cases in one family. The type of Scarlet Fever in these cases was a very severe one. The family had been away from Knottingley visiting during the incubation period, and one of the children developed the disease on reaching home, no doubt having contracted it while away on the visit.

The children at the schools were inspected at different times to find out if any cases in the desquamating stage were attending. One was found in the infant department of the National School.

I consider this inspection during the prevalence of epidemic disease very necessary, as if the disease be of a mild type I have not the slightest doubt that cases occur which escape notice from the authorities. A child may have so slight initial symptoms that, either through ignorance or carelessness, nothing is noticed by the parents, and the children are sent to school where, in the case of Scarlet Fever, they pass through the stage of desquamation and infect the others, or, if they be not of school age, they play about in the streets and mix with other children. Another great danger of these cases which are never notified is, that though at the time they may possibly not infect others if they be kept at home, yet, as nothing is known about the case, no disinfection of clothing or premises takes place, and months afterwards the germs of Scarlet Fever lying latent in those premises and clothes may light up a fresh attack; and then it is no wonder that cases keep springing up at long intervals.

Measles. During the last quarter of 1903, the township was visited by a severe outbreak of Measles which chiefly attacked the children attending the Infant Departments at the Schools. The outbreak was of a severe type and caused 13 deaths, mostly owing to the setting in of pulmonary complications. These may have been partly due to the very damp conditions of the weather which

we experienced at that time, and also to the fact that certain of the public do not regard Measles as being of a dangerous character at all, and only call in the medical man when the patient is in a critical state from lung complications which might have been prevented had more care been taken at first.

The first School affected by the outbreak was the Wesleyan School. The Infant Department was closed from the 16th of October to the 16th of November, and the Mixed School from October 26th to November 16th. The National School Infant Department and Chapel Street Board School were closed from the 7th of December to the 18th of December.

Phthisis. Twelve deaths were registered from Phthisis and other tubercular diseases during the year, being almost 10 per cent. of the total deaths.

Enteric Fever. There were three cases of Enteric Fever notified during 1903. Two of these recovered, and the other afterwards died from another cause.

Drainage. The Council ought now to complete the extension of the Sewage Mains to those properties which are not able to connect at present. Sunny Bank is in urgent need, as there is no drain in the property at all, the inhabitants throwing all their slops on the land adjoining the Canal Bank, where it constitutes a grave public nuisance. Sunny Bank ought to be commenced first as its present conditions are much worse than those of the other properties. The Island, Bank's Garth, Beulah Place, and Sevastopol are other properties which still want connecting. I understand negotiations are in progress to connect Vale Cottages with the Ferrybridge scheme.

Water. Six samples of Water were examined during the year and found to be good.

The different Works have been visited and arrangements made to improve the Sanitary conditions so as to conform with the latest requirement of the Factories and Workshops' Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS PERCIVAL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903, and previous years District—Knottingley.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL,		Deaths in Public Institutions	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions, beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate *				Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	* 11	12	13
1893.	5487	211	38.4	48	227.4	136	24.7			3	139	25.3
1894.	5523	219	39.6	25	113.2	92	16.7			8	100	18.1
1895.	5559	228	41.0	40	175.4	116	20.9		1	7	122	21.9
1896.	5600	235	41.9	44	187.2	112	20.0			5	117	20.9
1897.	5650	202	35.7	27	133.6	90	15.9		3	3	90	15.9
1898.	5700	240	42.0	44	183.3	106	18.7			7	113	19.8
1899.	5730	190	33.1	26	137.2	90	15.7		1	9	98	17.0
1900.	5770	225	38.9	38	168.8	107	18.5			12	119	20.5
1901.	5808	182	31.3	30	164.8	83	14.2			13	96	16.7
1902.	5852	209	35.7	29	138.7	81	13.8			5	86	14.6
Averages for years 1893-1902	5667	214	37.7	35	162.9	103	17.9			7	108	19.0
1903.	5897	211	35.9	27	127.9	114	19.5			13	127	20.7

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).—1480 acres.

Total population at all ages 5808, at Census of 1901. Number of Inhabited houses,—1237.

Average number of persons per house.—4.69.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :

Infirmary, Leeds.

Dispensary, Pontefract.

Workhouse Infirmary, Pontefract.

Conjoint Infectious Hospital, Pontefract.

Smallpox Hospital, Sherburn.

Asylum, Wadsley.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District ?—No.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the
year, 1903.

District—KNOTTINGLEY.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages	At Ages. Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwds	
Small-pox	14	...	...	...	4	10	...	14
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever	52	...	11	36	4	1	...	39
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	71	...	11	36	10	14	...	53

ISOLATION HOSPITAL :

CONJOINT HOSPITAL, BAGHILL, PONTEFRACT.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during
Year 1903.

District—KNOTTINGLEY.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Smallpox ...	2					2		
Measles ...	13	1	10	2				
Scarlet Fever ...	4		1	3				
Croup ...	1		1					
Diarrhoea ...	4	4						
Phthisis ...	9				3	5	1	
Other Tubercular diseases ...	3			1	1	1		
Cancer, malignant disease ...	4					2	2	
Bronchitis ...	10	3	5			2		
Pneumonia ...	8	2				5	1	
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	3		2			1		
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver...	1					1		
Veneral diseases..	1	1						
Premature birth	2	2						
Diseases and accidents of parturition...	1				1			
Heart diseases ...	11					7	4	
Accidents ...	6		2	1		2	1	
Cerebral Haemorrhage...	7					1	6	
All other Causes	37	14	3		1	9	10	
All causes...	127	27	24	7	6	38	25	

TABLE C, 1903.

KNOTTINGLEY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

Medical Officer of Health : Thomas Percival. Salary £40.

Sanitary Inspector . T. E. Ingle. Salary £80

What other positions does the Sanitary Inspector fill ?—Surveyor.

Water Supply :

Quality—Very good. Action on Lead—None.

Any extensions or change during 1903 ?— None.

Any inadequacy in any part ?—No.

Sewerage :

Is the district systematically sewered ?— Yes.

Is Rainfall excluded ?—Not in all cases.

Extensions or Improvements during 1903 ?—

Any inadequacy, and where ?—Several, viz., Sunnybank, Island, Bank's
Garth, and a few small places.

Sewage Disposal :

System adopted—Settling Tanks and Irrigation Any extensions ?—No.

TABLE C., CONTINUED :

Scavenging -

Are the Privy-middens, ashplaces, etc., cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants?—Contractors.

Number of each type of receptacle :—Open privy middens.—Very few.

Covered privy middens.—The majority.

Pail or Tub closets.—25.

W.C's.—117.

Other.—

Adoptive Acts:

Acts adopted during 1903 (or parts).—None.

Any diseases added to Notification schedule } None.
e.g., Measles, Chicken-pox, &c.

Any system of voluntary notification of Phthisis?—None.

Bye-Laws :

Any adopted or sanctioned { (a) Under the Public Health Act, 1875.—Yes.
during 1903 ? (b) Under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.—

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	Number		General Condition	Legal Proceedings (if any)
	Regis- tered	Inspected		
Common Lodging Houses		7	In a fairly clean condition. Inspected	
Canal Boats		6		
Slaughter Houses ...		15	regularly, and in general good condition.	
Cowsheds		24		
Offensive Trades ... (Please specify nature.)				

Isolation Hospital:

Name and Situation of Hospital for Smallpox cases.—Smallpox Hospital,
Sherburn.

Do. for general infectious diseases.—Conjoint Hospital,
Baghill, Pontefract.

Does the Sanitary Authority provide Antitoxin (gratis)
for diphtheria cases?—No.

TABLE C., CONTINUED:

Schools :

No. of Public Elementary Schools in the district ?—

(a) Board Schools,—Three. (b) Other,—Two.

No. closed during 1903 on account of Sickness—Three.

Total duration of such closure—Six weeks.

Any ailment or contagious disease associated particularly with school life during 1903? - Measles.
Scarlet Fever.

Factory and Workshop Act:

[NOTE.—This form does not constitute a Report under Sec. 132]

No. of Workshops in the district, as per Register ?—7.

No. of inspections made during 1903,—Regularly.

Legal proceedings,—None.

No of Bakehouses included in above,—2.

No. of underground Bakehouses in district,—None.

No. of Domestic Workshops included in above,— None.

No. of Domestic Factories in the district,—None.

No. of Lists of Outworkers' received..... {employers or contractors
representing {outworkers

Any action as to unwholesome or infected Outworkers' premises,—None.

Dwellings :

Number of Houses built during 1903.—6. General character.—Good

Any houses unfit for habitation ?—Several, but mostly unoccupied.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts?—

Is house to house inspection systematically made?—not regularly.

Are records kept.—No

Nuisances :

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1902.—19. At close of 1903—21

Reported during 1903.—171. Abated during 1903.—150.

Total number of Legal Notices served for the abatement of Nuisances during 1903.—Two.

TABLE C., CONTINUED :

Total number of summonses or other Legal Proceedings.—Two.

Number of Sink wastes disconnected during 1903.—Eleven.

„ „ trapped „ —Eleven.

No of Closets newly constructed during 1903.—Several.

Kinds.—Privies, Earth, and Pail Closets

No. of Closets reconstructed during 1903—Many Kinds.—W.C.

Meterology:

Mean temperature for year 1903.—No record. Rainfall.—No record.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters :

Seizures of Unsound Food.—None. Prosecutions.—None

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.—None. Prosecutions—None

Has their been any poisoning during 1903 attributable to arsenical beer ?
—No.

River Pollution—Little in the district.

Smoke observations taken.—None. Legal Notices—None.

Summonses.—None.

Burial Grounds—No. in District 3 Any need of extension ?—No.

Mortuaries.—No. in District (a) for accidents. (b) Other.—None.

Births, during 1903. :

Males—111. Females.—100. Total.—211.

Number illegitimate, included in the above.—No information.

Number of Still Births (not included).—Six.

Deaths, during 1903. :

(1) GROSS DEATHS, i.e., Total actually registered in
district, without any correction.—114.

(2) NETT DEATHS on which the rates are calculated :
Males—69. Females—58. Total—127.

Number uncertified, included in the above.—None

Sanitary requirements of district & suggestions of Medical Officer of Health :

The connecting of Properties still undrained to the Main Sewers.

Sanitary Report, 1903.

Old Privies turned into W.C's.	No. 43
Ashpits too deep	23
Ashpits uncovered	10
Not sufficient Closet accommodation	7
Galvanized tins in place of old privies	16
Boxes and tins in bad repair (closets)	3
Foul drains	16
Keeping fowls, pigeons, etc. in bedrooms	4
Sink pipes trapped and disconnected	11
Manure heaps removed	11
Dangerous buildings	2
Quarry fences and hedges repaired	6
Various	19
	<hr/> 171 <hr/>

In hand 21. Reported 171. Abated 150.

Properties out of distance that require draining.

Sunnybank, very bad. Bank's Garth, very bad. Island, very bad
Beulah Place. Sebastopol.

Number of houses built during 1903—Six. General character good.

T. E. INGLE,
Sanitary Inspector.